

West View Savings Bank

“Over 100 Years of Quality Banking”

Volume 6, Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

August 2013

How To Talk To A Young Adult About Credit Cards

A Message from our President, David J. Bursic

We've all heard stories about college students who racked up thousands of dollars in credit card debt. These cautionary tales remind parents about the importance of protecting their children from making bad financial decisions. But, even more so, these stories serve as reminders that newly minted high school graduates can make “adult” decisions that will haunt them for years to come.

After high school graduation, it's a natural time for these young adults to look forward to greater independence, responsibility and the realities of adulthood. This is also a natural time for parents to sit down with their children to talk about the dangers of credit cards - and how to use them responsibly. As part of this conversation, parents need to educate their children about how credit works and empower them to take an active role in their financial future by using credit responsibly.

Building Credit

There is great value in building a healthy history of credit by responsibly obtaining and managing credit accounts. A good credit history can mean paying less for apartment rent and insurance products, and receiving a lower interest rate on future purchases.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 CEO Corner
- 1 NHCO Needs Food and Coats for Families in Crisis
- 2 NHCO School Supply Drive
- 3 5 Important Questions When Choosing Your First Home
- 4 Kid's Korner, From Our Kitchen

NHCO Needs Food and Coats for Families in Crisis



Summer is such a carefree time...for many it means lazy days grilling on the barbeque or traveling to exotic locations. *But for thousands of local families, summer is anything but carefree.* They're wondering how to afford to put gas in their cars to get to work, or whether they'll have enough food so their children won't go hungry.

During the summer, especially August, the shelves in North Hills Community Outreach's two food pantries are often empty. The “holiday spirit of giving” is still two or three months distant. Schools and civic groups have taken a break from collecting. And children from struggling families are home from school and not receiving a hot school lunch. All this means less food available for struggling families who turn to NHCO for help.

You can make a difference! **NHCO needs donations immediately of canned vegetables, soup, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, paper products, and fresh produce from your garden.** Thank you for your donation of food in any amount, which can be dropped off at the address below! For assistance with a food drive, please contact Brandi at blrukovena@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1 ext 3144. And although it's difficult to imagine winter

Continued on page 3

Parents and young adults should team up to develop a plan for using credit and building a strong credit history before children begin using personal credit cards. Talk to us here at the Bank about opening a low-limit credit card in your child's name, but put strict parameters around its use. Making one or two small purchases on the card each month and paying off the balance will help your child build a good credit history.

Don't Fall for the Gimmicks

Credit card companies love to lure in young customers with t-shirts and other cheap merchandise, especially on college campuses. However, many of these cards carry annual fees and high-interest rates that can end up costing a great deal more than the "free" item is worth.

Encourage your children to resist the urge to fill out credit applications for freebies, even if they say they'll never activate the credit card upon approval. There are many ways to build credit, and this isn't one of them.

Consider Freezing Your Credit

A useful tool for young people and concerned parents alike is the credit freeze, a service available through credit bureau websites Experian.com, Transunion.com, and Equifax.com. When your credit is frozen, no new creditors can look at your credit history without you lifting the freeze. This prevents new credit accounts from being opened without concerted effort. It also protects the credit card user from making hasty decisions about opening new credit accounts and limits potential losses from accounts opened fraudulently.

If you already have credit cards and want to prevent yourself from making impulsive purchases, take the old advice of freezing the cards in a block of ice. Let the card thaw out—without help, of course—and then decide if that purchase is still worth it. Remember, just because you have credit doesn't mean you have money to repay the debt. Be sure to factor in your current financial situation before making a decision to buy on credit.

Commit to Actively Monitoring Your Credit Report

If you don't want to go to the extreme of freezing your credit, you can actively monitor your credit account for inaccuracies and fraudulent activity. Unfortunately, there are many firms that want to charge you for this service that you can access each year for free at annualcreditreport.com, the only site authorized under federal law.

Each of the three credit bureaus—Experian, TransUnion and Equifax—allows you to pull the report once per year so ideally, you could rotate pulling your credit report from one of the bureaus every four months. Annualcreditreport.com serves as a free gateway that allows you to request your credit report from each bureau—there is no need to visit the bureau websites to make these requests. By checking your credit report several times per year, you can ensure that your timely payments are being recorded accurately and no unauthorized activity has occurred.

What the Bank Can Do to Help

West View Savings Bank offers a no annual fee Visa® Platinum Credit Card that can be used to develop a credit history. Our credit card offers fraud monitoring, travel accident insurance, and an auto rental collision damage waiver. In addition, we offer a rewards program that allows you to earn one point for every dollar in net retail purchases with no cap on how many points you can earn. You can redeem points for merchandise, rental cars, cruises, hotels, or airline travel – with fewer restrictions and no blackout dates.

Please call or visit any of our branches for an application.



**NHCO WANTED:
Backpacks and School Supplies**



Help a child start the school year right! NHCO is collecting new backpacks and school supplies for student's k-12 **through August 16th**. Drop off at NHCO Allison Park or contact Vicki at vdburst@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1 with questions.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

**ROBIN BEMIS, MIKE RUTAN
&
BERNARD LEFKE**



weather while the thermometer hovers near 90 degrees, **NHCO will collect gently worn and new winter coats for local families in need during September and October.** We especially need children's and adult XL and XXL sizes. Drop off your clean, unwanted coats at the address below. For assistance with a coat drive, please contact Vicki at vdburst@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1 ext 3143.

Food donations are accepted year-round, 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday at NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101. Coat donations are accepted during September and October. For more information on volunteering and other needs, please visit www.nhco.org, like North Hills Community Outreach on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @NHCOHelps. Thank you!



5 Important Questions When Choosing Your First Home

Moving into your own place can be exciting and frightening at the same time. The American Bankers Association suggests considering the following questions when choosing your own home.

1. How much money do you have saved up?

Start with an evaluation of your financial health. Figure out how much money you have for a down payment or deposit on a rental. Down payments are typically 5 to 20 percent of the price of the home. Security deposits on rentals are usually about one month of rent and more if you have a pet. But be sure to keep enough in savings for an emergency fund. It's a good idea to have three to six months of living expenses to cover unexpected costs.

2. How much debt do you have?

Consider all of your current and expected financial obligations like your car payment and insurance, credit card debt and student loans. Make sure you will be able to make all the payments in addition to the cost of your new home. Aim to keep total rent or mortgage payments plus utilities to fewer than 25 to 30 percent of your gross monthly income. Regulatory changes due to take effect next year will limit debt to income on most loans to 43 percent.

5 Important Questions When Choosing Your First Home

3. What is your credit score?

A high credit score indicates strong creditworthiness. Both renters and homebuyers can expect to have their credit history examined. A low credit score can keep you from qualifying for the rental you want or a low interest rate on your mortgage loan. If your credit score is low, you may want to delay moving into a new home and take steps to raise your score. For tips on improving your credit score, visit aba.com/housingmonth.

4. Have you factored in all the costs? Create a hypothetical budget for your new home.

Find the average cost of utilities in your area, factor in gas, electricity, water and cable. Find out if you will have to pay for parking or trash pickup. Consider the cost of yard maintenance and other basic maintenance costs like replacing the air filter every three months. If you are planning to buy a home factor in real estate taxes, mortgage insurance and possibly a home owner association fee. Renters should consider the cost of rental insurance.

5. How long will you stay?

Generally, the longer you plan to live someplace, the more it makes sense to buy. Over time, you can build equity in your home. On the other hand, renters have greater flexibility to move and fewer maintenance costs. Carefully consider your current life and work situation and think about how long you want to stay in your new home.

For more information, visit @ www.aba.com/housingmonth.

Article courtesy of the American Bankers Association



WEST VIEW BANK BRANCH OFFICES

West View Office	412-931-2171
McCandless Office	412-364-1911
Cranberry Office	724-776-3480
Sherwood Oaks Office	724-776-4870
Franklin Park Office	724-935-7100
Lending Division	724-935-7400
Bellevue Office	412-761-5595

Visit us at www.wvbank.com



KID'S KORNER



SUMMERTIME FUN



MINI AQUARIUM INGREDIENTS

.25 oz box of Mixchief Add Soda! Jell-O

2 cups clear soda (Sprite, 7 Up)

Blue food coloring (you could also use light blue soda and omit the coloring)

4 half-pint canning jars

½ cup of small jelly beans (I used Hawaiian Punch jelly beans)

4 Swedish Fish candies

Pour gelatin powder in medium bowl. Boil ½ cup of soda, and pour boiling soda over gelatin. Stir for about 2 minutes, until completely dissolved. Add remaining 1 ½ cups of soda, along with a drop or two of coloring and stir. Divide gelatin evenly into 2 jars and place in the refrigerator for about 4 hours, until firm and fully set.

Place a handful of jelly beans in the bottom of the two remaining jars. Right before serving, loosen the set Jell-O from jars by running a knife along the edges. Place jar upside down over the jar with the jelly beans and give it a tap...it will fall right out and into place!

Cut two slits in the Jell-O & insert your Swedish Fish. Done!

ARCADE	HEAT	SHOPPING
BAREFOOT	HIKE	SHORTS
BASEBALL	HOT DOGS	SKATES
BEACH	ICED TEA	SLEEPING OVER
BIKE	JOB	SUNBURN
BIKINI	LEMONADE	SWEAT
BORED	MONEY	SWIM
CAMP	MOVIES	TAN
CARTRIP	MOW	TRAVEL
COKES	NO HOMEWORK	T SHIRT
COOKOUTS	PARKS	TV
FRISBEE	PICNIC	VACATION
GOOF OFF	PLAY	WATER